

**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
Wastewater Subcommittee**

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Ave, 3rd Floor, Tuolumne Conference Room**

Mission: The Wastewater Subcommittee shall review sewage and stormwater collection, treatment, and disposal system replacement, recycling, and other relevant plans, programs, and policies ([Admin Code 5.140-142](#)).

Members

Anietie Ekanem (D10)
Amy Zock (D3)

Ernesto Martinez (D9)
Misty McKinney (B-Enviro.
Justice)

Amy Nagengast (D8)

M = Mayoral appointment, B = Board President Appointment

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu and Alexandra Johnson

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to order and roll call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm

Members present at roll call: (4) Ekanem, Zock, McKinney, Nagengast

Members absent at roll call: (1) Martinez

Members of the public: None

2. **Approve [March 6, 2018](#) Minutes**

Motion was made (McKinney) and seconded (Zock) to approve the [March 6, 2018](#) Minutes.

AYES: (4) Ekanem, Zock, McKinney, Nagengast

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Martinez

3. **Report from the Chair**

- Welcome members, staff, and the public

Mark Farrell
Mayor

Ike Kwon
President

Vince Courtney
Vice President

Ann Moller Caen
Commissioner

Francesca Vietor
Commissioner

Anson Moran
Commissioner

Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.
General Manager



- Chair Ekanem provided an update from the Old Skool Café Gala event that supported local communities and youth workforce.

4. **Public Comment:** None.

5. **Staff report**

- Joseph Sweiss, Public Relations Assistant, Communications, provided an update on the Ocean Beach Construction.
 - The Ocean Beach Masterplan is comprised of two phases; Phase I is focused on short-term immediate action to address erosion and protect infrastructure. Phase II will begin in the next few years and will focus on long-term measures such as design.
 - Construction began in mid-March and will continue Monday to Friday from 7am – 4pm for the next few months.
- *Member Nagengast* asked if the San Francisco Zoo's Coastal Conservation Center is part of the working group. *Staff Sweiss* confirmed that members of that effort are also a part of the working group.
- *Member McKinney* asked if the Ocean Beach Masterplan is considering the endangered wildlife species, such as Ottawa birds. *Staff Sweiss* confirmed that the short term plans in Phase I address wildlife protection.
- *Member Zock* asked what the current stage of the Ocean Beach Masterplan is. *Staff Sweiss* informed that the Masterplan is currently in Phase I and focused on short-term planning, prioritizing immediate action such as traffic congestion.

6. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Biosolids Program Update](#), Karri Ving, Manon Fisher, Ravi Krishnaiah, Alex Miot, Ryan Batjiaka, Laura Pagano; Resource Recovery and Pollution Prevention Program, Wastewater Enterprise

Presentation Topics:

- Wastewater CAC Biosolids Program Update
- Meeting Objectives
- Soil Fertility – The Reason We Ate Yesterday
- Our Digesters Capture These Nutrients
- Biosolids Not Only Return Nutrients to Soils...
- Benefit of SFPUC Biosolids Applied to Soils
- Resilience in the Face of Drought
- Biosolids Can Repair Destroyed Soils
- Current Biosolids Management
- Partnership with Lystek
- Regular Testing to Assure Biosolids Quality
- End Use Logistics and Contracting
- Biosolids Managements System
- Class A Biosolids at Oceanside via TPAD
- Class A Biosolids at Southeast via THP
- Expanding Reuse Options, Looking to the Future
- Bay Area Biosolids Coalition
- UC Davis Research Partnership
- UC Merced Research Partnership
- University of Washington Research Partnership
- Developing Communications Tools
- SEP Demonstration Garden
- Community Engagement at Other Programs – Loops

- Community Engagement at Other Programs – Targo
- Working with the Citizens' Advisory Committee

Discussion Topics:

- *Member Nagengast* asked if Biosolids is a cost-center or a revenue generator
Staff Ving confirmed that Biosolids is a cost-center; the SFPUC pays to transport and distribute the biosolids.
- *Member Nagengast* asked if it is more expensive to convert biosolids to Class A compared to Class B; and how much more energy is used to convert biosolids to Class B to Class A.
Staff Krishnaiah informed that it costs the same.
Staff Ving informed that electricity used to convert biosolids is clean energy from Hetch-Hetchy. There is more energy required to create Class A than Class B biosolids because of differing treatment processes.
- *Member McKinney* asked if the digester at the Southeast Treatment Plant has a higher capacity than the Oceanside Plant.
Staff Ving informed that the Southeast Treatment Plant digester process is more thorough; the pre-digestion phase breaks down the biosolids through stream which results in the treatment plants needing fewer digesters.
- *Member McKinney* asked what Lystek's current or proposed daily capacity for biosolids.
Staff Ving informed that Lystek's current capacity is close to 150,000 wet tons per year.
- *Member McKinney* asked if the biosolids team is looking to remove non-organic matter i.e. microfibers, in addition to removing pathogens, during the biosolids conversion process.
Staff Batjiaka informed that plastics which float are removed and sent to landfill. Denser items will be removed along with grit. Screens at the beginning of the treatment process will also remove larger items. Some amount of microfibers and micro-plastics will be in the effluent and biosolids.
 - *Staff Fisher* iterated that the easiest way to remove microfibers is to prevent them from entering the system in the first place by actively engaging in pollution prevention.
- *Member Zock* asked what community engagement challenges the biosolids team experiences that the CAC can help with i.e. branding, awareness.
Staff Fisher mentioned that the team luckily hasn't experience much resistance from the community. Then stated the biosolids team is focused on shifting the mentality of wastewater treatment to resource recovery.
Staff Ving mentioned that talking about the program and carbon sequestration to members inside and outside of the community is an effort that the team is continuously working on.
- *Member McKinney* asked if all of the biosolids products will be Class A.
Staff Batjiaka confirmed that the goal is to eventually convert all products to Class A.
 - *Chair Ekanem* asked for a timeline on what biosolids can be converted and sold until construction is completed in 2025.
Staff Ving informed that at the Oceanside Treatment Plant, which treats 20% of waste, will be able to convert all products to Class A by the end of 2018.
Staff Fisher mentioned that Class B biosolids shouldn't be considered as an inferior product. It just has different purposes than Class A.

Public Comment: None.

7. **Future Agenda Items and Resolutions**

- Watershed Stewardship Grants
- Stormwater Management Ordinance and the Southeast Treatment Plant
- Environmental Justice in Capital Projects
- Education Programs
- Bayview Arts Master Plan Update
- SSIP Phase II Communications Updates
- Upcoming Constructions
- Green Infrastructure Resolution Update
- SSIP CityWorks Interns' Resolutions Update
- Workforce Programs and Qualifications
- Ocean Beach Master Plan Phase II Planning
- Resolution in Support of Biosolids

8. **Announcements/Comments** The next rescheduled meeting of the Wastewater Subcommittee will take place on June 5, 2018. Visit www.sfwater.org/cac for information about the next meeting.

9. **Adjournment**

Motion was made (McKinney) and seconded (Zock) to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.